

Session 12-06, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at 5:33 p.m. on April 10, 2012 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, BREMICKER, AND BELL

**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONER LILLIBRIDGE (EXCUSED)

**STAFF:** PLANNING TECHNICIAN JULIE ENGBRETSSEN  
RECREATION SPECIALIST MIKE ILLG  
PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR ANGIE OTTESON  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Bremicker called for a motion to approve the agenda.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (*Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings Only*)

A. Minutes for the February 16, 2012 Regular Meeting

Chair Bremicker noted that there were three sets of minutes for approval and recommended approving them separately.

He called for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 16, 2012

BRANN/LOWNEY – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

No discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the commission.

Chair Bremicker called for a motion to approve the minutes for the special meeting on March 29, 2012.

BELL/ARCHIBALD – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the commission.

Chair Bremicker called for a motion to approve the minutes for the Special meeting of April 10, 2012.

ARCHIBALD/BRANN – MOVED TO APPROVE THOSE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the commission.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

## **VISITORS**

A. Mr. Bill Evans, Karen Hornaday Park Landscaping Recommendations

Mr. Evans was unable to attend this meeting. Staff will provide more information during report later in agenda.

B. Kachemak Bay Water Trail Association, Dave Brann

There was a brief moment while the commissioners moved to the audience as the monitor was not viewable from the table side.

Mr. Dave Brann provided a short visual presentation and report on the proposed Kachemak Bay Water Trail, what it was, where it will go and the intent and purpose of the Kachemak Bay Water Trail Association. Mr. Brann reported that the Association would be presenting to Council in June at the first meeting and they were seeking support in the form of a resolution which a proposed draft was submitted to the Commissioners. Mr. Brann acknowledged that the item was on the agenda under new business and asked if there were any questions.

Chair Bremicker thanked Mr. Brann for the presentation and information.

Mr. Brann responded to a few questions regarding a map of proposed location of the water trail and a recent trip on the water.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

## **STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

A. Community Recreation – Mike Illg

Mike provided a summary of his report and reported on the interest that he has fielded on inquiries from the public on renting offices, Boys and Girls club expressed the possibility of additional funding and possible long term lease, and various other entities regarding the HERC building. He announced the Bike Rodeo, HoPP is looking for volunteers for Build Week on the playground; he will be on Coffee Table and will be talking about recreation in general and he requested some items to mention on the show. He will not be going into details just mentioning some of the things the commission is working on. Mr. Illg also mentioned that needs assessment and should have a progress report for the May meeting.

Ms. Engebretsen confirmed that the driveway will be relocated at Mariner Park at the end of summer as one item to mention.

Commissioner Archibald mentioned upcoming events at Karen Hornaday Park and that there are numerous events that are scheduled at the park such as Concert on the Lawn, and the Highland games Camp Ground Host program.

Additional items to mention Baseball; Jack Gist Park; Adopt a Park/Trail Program; One more vacancy to fill on the Commission. Commissioner Brann mentioned that the Rotary will be painting the Restrooms at Ben Walters Park. He also mentioned advocating for Bike Safety along Kachemak Drive.

Ms. Engebretsen responded to a question regarding a putting a page on the website regarding trails

using available software that staff can start working on and would be a better use of time and funds instead of paper.

B. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician/GIS

Ms. Engebretsen reported that a conversation with Mr. Evans and expected more information from him at a later time; she reported that he has never been to the park personally but has recommended that the Commission focus on what brings the public to the park; he will submit some general recommendations regarding landscaping that could be followed in addressing the landscaping issues at the park.

She noted that Jack Wiles had recommended one additional person in the community that may be interested in working out a landscaping plan, but felt it would be more helpful to flesh out where exactly the commission wanted someone to look at and after the installation of the playground before doing anything.

Chair Bremicker recalled the discussion at the special meeting. He opined that the Day Use Area would be the area needing focus and would benefit from landscaping. Commissioner Lowney pointed out on the map the proposed areas for landscaping that HoPP would possibly have money, plants and labor available to implement it at the same time. HoPP has \$5000 to offer, Commissioner Lowney was not sure if this would take more money and if so, the commission would have to approve allocating money from the \$90,000 for the Day Use Improvements. Staff recommended a special meeting before the next regular meeting to discuss the park. She further recommended that the commission have further discussion on this under the item under Pending Business.

Ms. Engebretsen then noted that for follow-up was the uniform signage and asked if this could be on the May agenda. The commission agreed to this.

The entrance to Mariner Park is scheduled for relocation later this summer.

Commissioner Brann asked about reduction in the speed limit from the base of the spit to the entrance. Ms. Krause responded that the City received permission to reduce the speed limit. Ms. Engebretsen agreed and further stated that there is an agreement in the works and nearing or recently completed that allows the City to manage the Right of Way parking and speed limits on the Spit.

Additional discussion on keeping the reduced speed year round and then bringing the Bike Path to Kachemak Drive/Mariner Park entrance from Ocean Drive ensued. Chair Bremicker agreed and that maybe a recommendation should be sent to Council. Ms. Engebretsen agreed and stated it should be on the CIP list. Commissioner Archibald asked about the vaulted toilets. Staff responded that Council did not approve the funding in the budget.

Ms. Engebretsen provided an update on Town Center parks and trails and no additional action has been done since the residents turned down the proposed city hall bond. The Budget is in the packet and she outlined the process briefly stating that if they wait it will be less likely that they receive funding. A potential land trade – there has been no new discussion since last year.

Chair Bremicker requested Town Center to be on the May agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Brann requested an update on the proposed pocket park on Kachemak Way. Ms. Krause noted that the commission had requested a meeting where staff, the property owner and other interested parties could discuss the proposed park. Chair Bremicker noted he did speak with the property owner and if the Commission would like to add it to the May agenda he could relay the information he had.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about approaching the new owners and Staff responded that there is no evidence of a new owner and maybe pursue it this fall as staff had quite a full plate already.

C. Parks Maintenance – Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson provided a brief status update on the red shed, different entities have expressed interest in the old playground equipment that is being removed, so decision was made to put it in the City Surplus Sale, she will be going to Fairbanks to attend Playground Inspection training; Ms. Otteson opined that she would like to see the fitness equipment installed along the Spit Trail.

Commissioner Brann commented on the condition of the Picnic Pavilion on the Spit and alluded that the structure is posing some possible liabilities. Ms. Otteson stated that it is being looked into on the best method to rehabilitate the structure.

Ms. Otteson further stated that she will provide information on signage for the next regular meeting.

D. Karen Hornaday Park Committee Report – Robert Archibald

Commissioner Archibald reported that Miranda Weiss with HoPP provided a more in-depth description on what they proposed to provide; Phil Needham representing Little League was not agreeable to losing any parking. All in attendance was excited about improvements to the parking area. Most were hesitant to make any decisions before seeing exactly what was up there when the snow is gone.

Mr. Archibald reported that consensus to withhold performing any landscaping work such as installing new sod should wait, more efforts placed on engineering, concept B2 as drawn could be modified and when the snow leaves they will have a better idea on the visual aspects of the area. Having grass would be great but logically a waste of money. The campground host program is well received by the Committee. The committee also held a discussion on the special meeting on April 10, 2012.

He further reported that they will meet on May 3, 2012 and stated that the main emphasis was getting a grasp on drainage and how to set elevation on the dirt up there and not waste money doing something else before that.

Chair Bremicker asked if any consideration was given to the speed bumps on the road into the park. He asked if the Staff had any discussions.

Discussion evolved that ironically it is the best dirt road in the city and it was wide which encouraged speeding; suggestions have been made about putting gravel along the side of the road to make a safe pedestrian path; installing speed bumps at designated crosswalks with signage to prevent going around the speed bumps, even one set, consisting of two speed bumps would deter speeding and are believed to be very effective; picking a good location to install them that would also have higher pedestrian crossings.

Commissioner Archibald provided a suggestion from one of the committee members that included using a helicopter to seed the area.

E. Kachemak Drive Path Committee – Dave Brann

Commissioner Brann reported that they have submitted all the documentation and revised Resolution and it is scheduled to be on the Council agenda at the next meeting. If Council approves it they will be looking into getting the letter to the property owners finalized and sent out; they will be clearing brush and installing simple wood signs denoting it as a trail to deter campers.

Chair Bremicker reported the site visit and performing a laser level to site down the slope in order to create a trail for cyclists to avoid the steep slope, did some clearing and flagging. He opined that it was possible and did require some work in the area. There were no large trees in the area. This would tie into the Mud Bay Trail. The proposed would result in two trails one along the road and the other wandering along and more of a walking trail.

Commissioner Brann reported having contact with the AKDOT coastal engineer and they were very helpful and were very promising in their response on the proposed trail. He has taken pictures on where proposed signage for bikes on the road signs for the DOT and they have responded that it may be possible to have the Bikes on The Road signage installed by summer. He notated the recommended areas where signage could be installed.

Chair Bremicker commented that very minimal portions of the trail will be in the state right of way.

There was additional discussion on the proposed pathway along Kachemak Drive. Staff confirmed that there were a few information packets available at the Clerk's Office.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

No public hearings were scheduled.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Recommendation to Support the Improvement of a Portion of the Day Use Area in Karen Hornaday Park

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record. He asked for discussion on this for clarification.

Commissioner Archibald opened discussion on the proposed area to be used in the day use area and some of the following ideas such as parking, new picnic area, the playground, improvements will be to the east of the parking area. He stated that the committee did have a recommendation but it has gotten away from him and he apologized not having it for the commission to consider.

Further discussion was conducted on the probable fill, grade and improvements to the day use area and that consideration should also be given to passive use also. When promoting the park all recreation and users should be considered. Staff stated that accommodation should be considered during all phases of improvements especially with regards to parking. This was one of the major concerns when discussing the planned improvements.

Commissioner Brann wanted to suggest supporting the installation of a horseshoe pit.

Ms. Krause attempted to re-direct the commissioners to the item on the agenda which was a recommendation in support of the HoPP request to match funds of \$5,000 to put in landscaping in the designated areas just below the playground.

The commissioners discussed in more detail on the improvements; the total area; drainage; getting a visual of the area; making something happen on the HoPP schedule when the commission is not ready for it; this money will not be wasted if not used for landscaping; keeping and renovating the red shed; \$90,000 will not stretch too far. Commissioner Lowney recommended that a site visit should be done in June after the Build Week has been completed. A suggestion on installation of a horseshoe pit and seeding with wildflowers was brought up by Commissioner Brann.

Chair Bremicker noted for the record that the commission at this time had no recommendation on matching funds for the day use improvements as requested by HoPP.

Commissioner Archibald stated that the committee would like to recommend the removal of the yellow "pipe" fence. Ms. Otteson acknowledged that removal is scheduled just not sure when it will be done.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Trails Brochure**

Ms. Engebretsen opened discussion by reading from the Strategic Plan, "Document current and historical trails, create a pamphlet to show hiking trails, beaches, recreational access points, parks, campgrounds and basic rules and etiquette", she noted that the commission first discussed this back in 2005 and the first document is a copy of this document that was created. She described the creation, distribution and content of the brochure. Documenting historic trails was addressed in city code when subdividing and she is not sure this should be a priority of the commission any longer; she was not in favor of producing a new paper brochure and felt that the city website would be the direction to take.

Discussion from the commission included the following points:

- Directions were not very clear
- The idea was a general overview and location of the trailheads
- Maps are over 15 years old
- Availability of information is almost non-existent
- Accommodating the local and visitor aspects
- Who is responsible for removing or updating information
- Missing new trails since last brochure was printed
- Recommend putting Trail Brochure Update as mid-term goal to update in town trail location
  - Put this as a budget request for this budget cycle
- Adding additional recreational opportunities to the Trail Brochure making it a one-stop document

Staff will make sure visitor's center will have copies of the large brochure. Ms. Engebretsen explained that the current document was a snap shot and that a new brochure could reflect a different intent. She additionally explained that the cost in 2005 was \$2000 and depending on what the commission would like would depend on the cost. Mr. Ilg recommended the commissioners do some legwork in visiting websites and maybe bringing to meeting samples that would represent a design direction.

Chair Bremicker agreed with Commissioner Brann regarding having it on future agendas so that they could have a discussion and present what they found to the rest of the commission.

### **B. Recommendation to Express Support for the Kachemak Bay Water Trail**

Chair Bremicker brought the item to the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Brann stated he has a conflict of interest. Commissioner Archibald declared he may have a conflict also.

**BELL/LOWNEY - MOVED THAT COMMISSIONER BRANN HAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON THE KACHEMAK BAY WATER TRAIL.**

Commissioner Brann explained is involvement in the promotion of the Water Trail. He did not have any financial gain or involvement. Chair Bremicker explained his understanding with Commissioner Brann's involvement not being a conflict since there is no economic gain. Commissioner Bell opined that the perceived conflict in a person's mind could taint or reduce the validity of the Commission's recommendation that they should vote he has a conflict. Commissioner Lowney stated that they did not know the future of this trail and it deserves the strongest recommendation possible. Chair Bremicker noted that if the commission excludes Commissioner Brann and then excludes Commissioner Archibald there will be no recommendation. Ms. Engebretsen stated that going through this process is just as important also, even if the commission votes against the two having a conflict; addressing each declaration of conflict. This will show that the commission was thinking of the best interests of the public.

**VOTE. YES. ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BELL**

VOTE. NO. BREMICKER.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Archibald declared that he had a conflict.

LOWNEY/BELL – MOVED THAT COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD HAS A CONFLICT ON THE ISSUE.

Commissioner Archibald stated his reasons for believing he may have a conflict of interest. Commissioner Bell opined that he did not meet the threshold that Commissioner Brann and he should be able to participate in the recommendation. Commissioner Lowney agreed. Chair Bremicker stated that he agreed also and if anyone complained they can express that they kept one and denied one.

VOTE. NO. LOWNEY. BELL, BRANN, BREMCKER

Motion carried.

Chair Bremicker opened for discussion the recommendation for the Water Trail.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE 125 MILE KACHEMAK BAY WATER TRAIL AND APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION FROM THE WATER TRAIL ASSOCIATION.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Karen Hornaday Park Trail Connections

Ms. Engebretsen opened discussion on the trail connections to Karen Hornaday Park and funding. She noted that the commission should decide what kind of trail is desired for the Woodard Creek crossing and from the Miller Lane area. She referenced Reber Trail as a comparison which was not ADA accessible due to the steepness but is this the same level of trail that the commission desired for all trails to the park; or would a footpath/bike path be acceptable?

The commissioners and staff discussed the feasibility and need for an accessible trail not just for persons in long term care of the independent living facility. Having a shorter route for younger children would be beneficial as well as a bridge over the creek; previous groups were the initial push for this accessible connection; a decision on what are we doing on the other bank is the question; seek input from the hospital regarding a bridge connection would help whether they want a footpath or wait for the bridge; earlier discussions and input from the hospital were not favorable for a connection higher up near the long term facility due to traffic concerns; considerations to install a crossing higher up where the sloping is narrower and shallower; lower near Cityview is really steep and deep which would require more strategic placement of a bridge; crossing by the road would hinder accessibility from the hospital but help the neighborhood and the independent living center.

Staff will contact the hospital and long term care and get their input on accessibility and the bring information back for the next meeting in her staff report. Chair Bremicker inquired about easements also for the next meeting.

Ms. Engebretsen explained that when all the questions are answered between all the user groups, then you can address a budget request from the HART funds. Until all these decisions and details are in order

you cannot ask for the funding.

Commissioner Archibald noted that Jack Cushing might be interested in providing some additional work on that one road. He may be a good source in figuring out what needs to be done there.

Commissioner Lowney asked for more details regarding the Reber Trail in relation to the park. Ms. Engebretsen explained that it doesn't connect directly to the park but there is frequent access from Wright Street that may need some attention.

A discussion ensued regarding alternate access to Reber Trail from Fairview, vicious dogs, creating a trail connection to Wright Street; access is not all owned by the City and there is only a half right of way; getting permission from the land owner; before approaching the property owner should have a comprehensive plan; clearing along city land to park entrance; fitness equipment could be placed on a trail that is around the park.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

#### **A. Strategic Plan 2012**

Staff commented that if the commissioners ever fall short of having something on the agenda this will be included in each packet to assist in staying on track. No action is required.

Commissioner Lowney noted the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department and requested the HERC building also be included for discussion on an upcoming agenda, sooner rather than later. The commissioners were reminded about the Council worksession on April 30, 2012 5:00-7:00 p.m. There was a brief discussion on the worksession components.

Commissioner Archibald requested information on other entities in the state that have a Parks and Recreation Departments and how they are funded. He asked Mr. Illg if he could provide this information at the next meeting.

#### **B. Commission Annual Calendar 2012**

There was brief discussion on the items shown on the calendar. Staff noted that the discussion for the Annual Park Day is scheduled for the May Agenda. This meeting the commissioners should schedule a worksession for the annual Spring Park & Beach Walk Through. Staff explained for the benefit of the new commissioners what is usually done.

The commission agreed by consensus to schedule the walk through at Karen Hornaday Park since so much is going on and chose May 4, 2012, Noon and to meet at the park.

#### **C. Commissioners Attendance Schedule for 2012 Council Meetings**

The following commissioners volunteered to attend Council Meetings as follows:

April 9, 23, 2012 Council Meetings – Brann, Archibald and Bremicker

May 14, 29, 2012 Council Meetings – Lowney

June 11, 25, 2012 Council Meetings – Brann

#### **D. Amended and Approved Resolution 11-090(A) Non-motorized Pathway along Kachemak Drive**

#### **E. New Commissioner Lars Bell Application and Appointment Letter**

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Lindianne Sarno, city resident, and a commissioner on the EDC felt it was vitally important to address fire safety and encouraged the Commissioners have someone come and speak to them regarding proper fire safety and prevention. They are expecting a very dry summer this year.

**COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER** (if one is assigned)

There were no City Council members present.

**COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**

Mr. Illg commented on the draft agreement for the Memorandum of Agreement for Jack Gist Park. This is just a draft.

Ms. Engebretsen stated it was great to be back. Great Meeting. Look forward doing more work with the Parks and Rec. She will look into the Borough Program and would only need a request from this commission and the EDC.

Ms. Krause had no comments.

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Lowney commented that it was a good meeting, the last few have been very productive and looking at the prospect of crossing things off their list; the commission may need to add more to their short terms goals the way they are burning through them. She noted that Lars and she met with Mike over the needs assessment. They are looking to submit something to the commission in June. Need some feedback. Beautiful day let's go enjoy more of it.

Commissioner Bell commented that if the commissioners have ideas on the type of questions they would like to receive answers please forward to them so they can get the answers. He questioned about commissioners attending the HoPP build week and the open meetings act.

Commissioner Archibald announced that he may miss the next two meetings definitely the May meeting. He requested confirmation on the worksession on recreation with council.

Commissioner Brann thanked the commission for support on the water trail, reminded them about the informational meeting, excited about the progress they are making with Karen Hornaday Park. He welcomed Julie back and thanked staff for their efforts acknowledging all the efforts of the clerk to put things together and keeping them on track.

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Bremicker addressed Commissioner Bell's concern on the possible multiple commissioners at the HoPP Build week in relation to Open Meetings Act. Good meeting everyone! Thanked Lars and all the staff help and assistance makes him feel spoiled. Keep up the good work. Just getting the road access changed into Mariner Park seems to take quite a bit of effort, but it's all a process and can be frustrating.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

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Approved: